

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

FINAL MEETING NOTES

Friday, March 19, 2004

9:30 am – 3:30 pm

**Visitors Auditorium, Channel Islands National Park Headquarters
1901 Spinnaker Drive • Ventura Harbor, CA**

Note: Audio tape recordings of the SAC meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.

Attending:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Member Russell Galipeau
Alternate Gary Davis

US COAST GUARD

Alternate John Luzader

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Member Alex Stone
Alternate Walter Schobel

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Alternate John Ugoretz

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Member Rebecca Roth

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Member Dianne Meester
Alternate Jackie Campbell

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Alternate Jack Peveler

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Non-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

Member Jim Brye

CONSERVATION

Member Linda Krop
Alternate Greg Helms

BUSINESS

Alternate Darren Caesar

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Member Merit McCrea
Alternate Barbara LaCorte

EDUCATION

Member Craig Taylor
Alternate Barbara LaCorte

RESEARCH

Member Dr. Robert Warner
Alternate Dr. Dan Brumbaugh

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Robert Duncan
Alternate Avie Guerra

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Dr. Matthew Cahn [SAC Chair]
Alternate Jim Knowlton

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Chris Mobley, Manager

Absent:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Member Mark Helvey
Alternate (seat vacant)

US COAST GUARD

Member J. Wade Russell

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Member Joan Barminski
Alternate Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Member Brian Baird
Alternate Melissa Miller-Henson

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Member Marija Vojkovich

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Alternate Gary Timm

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Member Lyn Krieger

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Member (seat vacant)
Alternate Monica Baker

Non-CONSUMPTIVE RECREATION

Alternate Eric Kett

BUSINESS

Member Michael Hanrahan

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Member Harry Liqournik
Alternate (seat vacant)

EDUCATION

Alternate Barbara LaCorte

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Member Bill Douros, Sanctuary Superintendent
Alternate Sean Morton, Management Plan Coordinator

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown, Acting Manager

Attendance

At roll call 11 of 21 voting member seats were represented, with 11 of 21 present in the afternoon. Voting seats absent for the day were Commercial Fishing, Tourism, California Resources Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service and Minerals Management Service. A total of 23 SAC representatives were in attendance for the day (11 members, 11 alternates, 1 non-voting). Chumash seats did not yet have representatives. Public attendance peaked at approximately ten individuals.

Administrative Business and Announcements

New Council members were announced: Merit McCrea (recreational fishing member), Steve Roberson (recreational fishing alternate) and Jim Knowlton (public at-large alternate).

New Council vacancies were announced: tourism member, public at-large member, commercial fishing alternate.

Advisory Council Secretary Election

Advisory Council Coordinator Mike Murray explained the SAC Secretary position: it is open to voting members, a one year term, and part of the SAC Executive Committee (which includes the Chair, Vice chair, and Secretary) so the Secretary participates in reviews of all applicants for seats on the Council. Additionally, when the Chair or Vice Chair is not able to run a meeting the Secretary may be asked to step in. Traditionally the Secretary has not generally engaged in other duties that are part of the position description such as: keeping meeting notes and other administrative tasks.

Chair Matt Cahn offered that this is a meaningful position since Sanctuary staff want input from the Executive Committee from time to time. He also stated that it provides a hands-on way to be part of the SAC. Matt Cahn suggested returning to this item at end of day after everyone had time to think about it.

Sanctuary Manager's Report

Chris Mobley reported that the National Marine Sanctuary Program received a one-time budget increase for fiscal year 2004, resulting in a 17% increase to CINMS as well as other additional funds that will be used to support high priority projects such as marine reserves monitoring. Chris also mentioned Capital Hill Oceans Week and meetings he and other National Marine Sanctuary Program staff held with Congressional Representatives and their staff. Sarah MacWilliams also highlighted: the California Fish and Game Commission's proposal to list Xantus's murrelets as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act; a recent study of squid spawning grounds using remote sensing techniques; the Shore to Sea lecture series; and results of the Marine Wildlife Viewing Workshop along with the new class of Channel Islands Naturalist Corps members.

Management Plan Update

Mike Murray and Sarah MacWilliams explained that the management plan is now being reviewed by staff at National Marine Sanctuary Program headquarters as the first phase of internal clearance. They also explained that the associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) would be reviewed by National Marine Sanctuary Program staff soon pending a few final revisions. In response to an interest from the SAC in seeing the draft documents Mike and Sarah explained that while the Sanctuary cannot share the full text of the proposed regulatory package, the Sanctuary will provide the SAC with the action plans contained in the Draft Management Plan, as well as certain components of the Draft EIS.

SAC member announcements

- Linda Krop announced that the California Coastal Commission (CCC) held hearing this week in Monterey regarding the latest proposal from the EPA to issue a permit for discharge off of oil platforms, many in the Santa Barbara Channel Region. She explained that the proposed permit is a weakening of a permit that was agreed to three years ago. Linda noted that the CCC unanimously rejected the permit. The EPA will go ahead and issue a permit for three months and then evaluate the need for other permits on case-by-case basis. She stated that she is hopeful that the EPA will adhere to federal and state standards. Linda also mentioned that environmental groups have had meetings with both the Crystal and Cabrillo Port liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects. Lastly, Linda acknowledged that on June 27 EDC will honor Lois Capps and Jean Holmes with Environmental Hero awards.
- Bob Warner mentioned a Packard-funded working group out of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), that is working on land-sea interaction. The group includes people from across the state and is a part of a four-pronged effort to learn more about how the land affects the sea. Bob is a member of this group. Bob also announced that the Channel Keepers annual event is tomorrow at the Double Tree Hotel with Terry Tanenham (Head of Cal. EPA) speaking.
- Russell Galipeau stated that he appreciates the Sanctuary and State support in Xantus's murrelet studies. He mentioned work on building the Shore to Seas Lecture series into classroom curriculum, and getting more exposure with adding lectures to UCSB and other

institutions. Russel also noted that since the Island Fox was listed as endangered under the Federal endangered species act (ESA) the Channe Islands National Park has been in 45 different papers, on four TV channels, and four radio stations. The directors of the CDFG, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and The Nature Conservancy all met to work out a short-term strategy for island fox. Russell asked that if anyone has concerns about pig eradication, bald eagles, island fox, etc., that they seek knowledge. If there is a group the park could come talk to let them know. Russell noted that the park is having the most difficulty reaching Santa Barbara. Russell mentioned that the park received an increase in base budget for MPA work. The Park is looking for partnerships with boat time between the Sanctuary and DFG. Russell acknowledged that Gary Davis is carrying the torch for the oceans. Gary is our biggest advocate world-wide. He's doing workshops: American Museum of Natural History in NY; Nat'l Science Teachers Assoc. in GA; NPS National Advisory Group in FL; Department of the Interior conference on adaptive mgt.; a meeting in Madrid, Spain on adaptive management; The Coastal Society conference in Rhode Is; American Fisheries Society annual mtg.; publications on marine reserves design. Russell offered thanks to Gary.

- John Ugoretz announced that the State is having an emergency hearing on lingcod, concerning the bag limit, and a possible two-month closure.
- Rebecca Roth noted that the U.S. Ocean Commission Report will be coming out soon, on April 22. Rebecca noted concern from the coastal community of recommending changes to CZMA regarding pollution and federal consistency.
- Bob Duncan announced that the National Park Service is talking to the maritime museum regarding their venues, and noted that the Santa Barbara harbor festival is coming up in April and will include a visit from a tall ship.
- Avie Guerra started a new job with an elementary school in Oxnard where she is now the outreach coordinator. She maintains an email list of 720 people and is involved in a South Oxnard revitalization group. She noted that this group is very opposed to LNG coming into the area and attended a recent public scoping meeting. Their concerns are about: property values declining automatically, environmental impacts on the community, terrorism, and about whether the two naval bases in the area (Pt. Hueneme and Pt. Mugu) will be able to stay open. She noted that the public has until March 21 to report to groups monitoring the study (USCG and State Lands).

Working Group and Ad-Hoc Group Reports

Sanctuary Education Team or SET (Craig Taylor)

Craig Taylor announced that the SET would hold an outreach/recruitment event on March 22 with a speaker on marine reserves. Craig asked if anyone could lend the SET a 15-20 minute general video on reserves (not necessarily the Channel Islands reserves).

Business Working Group or BWG (Darren Caesar)

Darren announced that the BWG is working with the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce on a business exchange.

Conservation Working Group or CWG (Linda Krop)

Linda discussed the previous night's CWG meeting that included: updates on marine reserves and the Management Plan Review process, and the work of an Environmental Defense Center (EDC) intern on acoustics. Linda noted that in May the SAC meeting may include panelists on acoustic impacts so the CWG is taking the time to research that issue as it affects the Sanctuary. The CWG is revising the acoustic recommendations it provided to the SAC in fall, and hopes to distribute those 2-3 weeks before the next SAC mtg. Linda stated that the CWG would like to ask the SAC to consider those recommendations but realized that this is not likely to happen until the SAC has received presentations on acoustics, so perhaps the SAC will consider the recommendations in July. Linda added that water quality is the next priority issue the CWG is working on. She mentioned a meeting with Sanctuary staff in February, the purpose of which was to discern what's happening in the Sanctuary regarding water quality, and the possibility of having a water quality working group. Based on that meeting she acknowledged that Sanctuary staff are not able to support a working group at this time. The Sanctuary's initial needs regarding water quality are: to conduct a needs assessment, education, monitoring, find out who's doing what, what the threats are, and determine what gaps there are. The CWG is helping with that needs assessment and has an intern who will work on it through the summer. The assessment can then be presented to the SAC and Sanctuary staff. Jack Peveler indicated that if the acoustic recommendations include any discussion of moving the shipping lanes it is important that Pt. Hueneme know about this as soon as possible. Linda responded that in May the CWG would present more of a background paper that describes activities and their impacts. She added that the CWG may not jump into recommendations until after the May SAC meeting.

Chris Mobley announced that last week while he was at National Marine Sanctuary Program Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD he met with staff from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). They are involved in a major scientific analysis and modeling effort to comprehensively review acoustic impacts in terms of: duration, intensity, how the distance from a sound source affects impacts, and chronic harm vs. acute harm. This would be the basis for determining what types of acoustic issues would cause concern for particular species. Chris offered to provide the CWG with NMFS contacts to aid in development of their background paper, and to let them know about the timeline of the NMFS project. Gary Davis added that there is also a National Academy of Science panel working on the same issue and that he can provide the CWG with information on that project. Rebecca Roth asked about what other sanctuaries are doing on this issue and whether there might be opportunities to consolidate efforts. Rebecca added that six members of the California delegation sent a letter to the Marine Mammal Commission that will be reporting to Congress encouraging their work and the importance of state level input. Rebecca indicated that it would be important to include that in the next meeting.

New Working Groups

Research Advisory Panel

Mike Murray stated that the idea to develop a research group started at the last SAC retreat on Santa Cruz Island (October 2003). The Council has been without a research working group since the Research Advisory Panel disbanded after the Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG) work was complete. Mike noted that there are many existing groups that could serve that function in part. Functions we could ask such a group to provide may include advising the SAC, or the Sanctuary directly. Mike indicated that Sanctuary staff believe there is merit to the idea if the SAC is interested, but there is a need to do more background work on needs and possibilities.

Bob Warner mentioned that he and Dan Brumbaugh spoke with Bill Douros about the group at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. They have a group of scientists who meet bi-monthly or monthly to coordinate research and exchange information, rather than being tasked by the SAC for specific information. That type of group could easily be formed. Whether it would be an official working group of the SAC is up to staff. Dan Brumbaugh added that we need to have more discussion between Bob, Dan and Sanctuary staff, in particular Sarah Fangman, before the next SAC meeting. Bob Warner noted that it is important to have the group not become overburdened, and have a specific job so they know how they can help best.

Chris Mobley suggested discussing this idea with similar groups to determine how to set up the group and what their function would be. He asked whether their function would be to review science proposals or to weigh in on science? He questioned whether some of the groups we have are set up properly. Dan Brumbaugh suggested that we could have a standing constituent-based group that would help review science projects; but, as a particular topic arises an ad-hoc group focused on that could be formed. Linda Krop added that when issues are brought to the SAC as a whole there is a need to reach out. She noted that it is hard to know who is interested in an issue or working group if no one shows up after a working group has distributed announcements and agendas. Matt Cahn responded that he does appreciate getting agendas and following what's going on, even if he doesn't attend. Mike Murray concluded this discussion by stating that Sanctuary staff need to talk more about this with Dan and Bob, then bring ideas back to the SAC in May.

Recreational Fishing Working Group

Mike Murray stated that the Sanctuary sees great value in inviting people not selected for the recreational fishing seats to have a working group either independent of the existing fishing working group, or merged with that group. Merit has expressed an interest in and support for this idea, but we want to hear from rest of group. Merit expressed interest in the idea of having two meetings on the same evening in the same venue but in separate rooms. He added that this would allow the groups to get together and discuss issues both have an interest in. Merit said he would want to bring together three distinct branches of the recreational fishing community: recreational divers (SCUBA and free-divers), recreational anglers, and the support industry for recreational fishermen (dive boats, CPFVs, bait haulers, bait shops, angler organizations - SB sportfishing club, CPFV group or Sport Fishing Assoc. of CA, RFA, United Anglers of Southern California). Merit mentioned that he hopes Dan Toomey and Tom Raftican, who also sought the Recreational Fishing Seat, would be involved in the working group. Bob Duncan recommended a few other individuals for the group: Matt Lum (a Santa Barbara free diver), and Bryan Cordiac (sp?). John Ugoretz suggested that Peter Wolf in Santa Barbara as a representative for shore-based small-scale anglers doing float tubes and off-beach fishing, and offered his contact information. Merit asked that people send other recommendations to him at: meritmccrea@hotmail.com. Bob Warner suggested keeping in contact with Milton Love since he is a scientist who keeps recreational fishing in mind. Matt Cahn thanked Merit for stepping up and asked the SAC to formalize the Recreational Fishing Working Group.

Dan Brumbaugh asked what the role of a working group is. Mike Murray explained that a working group can consist of both SAC representatives and the general public, but must be

chaired by a member of the SAC, and must hold public meetings. The purpose of working groups is to provide advice, recommendations and other input to the SAC. Mike noted that sometimes working groups want to be more active, which is okay as long as working groups don't start writing letters without going through the SAC channel. Several SAC members discussed working groups that are issue-based vs. constituent-based on which the charter indicates they should be. Mike Murray acknowledged that working groups are both issue-driven and constituent-based, sometimes a bit of both, and that the charter doesn't clarify which way working groups should be.

John Ugoretz made a motion to form a Recreational Fishing Working Group to be chaired by Merit, and Linda offered a second for that motion. SAC members raised no comments or concerns and there was unanimous consent for the motion.

Public Comment

Bret Wagner introduced himself as a nominee for the congressional seat held by Representative Elton Gallegly. He commended the SAC for their hard work in our district, and in name of all Americans acknowledged the need to restore our national park. He stated that he has many priorities in mind for the Channel Islands. He said he would like to hear about our concerns and activities. Mr. Wagner concluded stating that he is the President of an organization focused on California strategic studies, a Fleet Professor for the US Naval War College, based at Pt. Mugu in Ventura County.

Update on Marine Reserves: Part 1 – John Ugoretz

Development of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Monitoring Plan

John provided a PowerPoint presentation to report on the status of monitoring and management of state MPAs within the Sanctuary. The full report, *Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas Monitoring Plan*, is available on the California Department of Fish and Game (Department) web site: www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/channel_islands. In development of a draft biological framework the Department reviewed results of the monitoring workshop held at UCSB in March 2003. The first field season for monitoring MPAs will be this summer and will enable us to increase baseline data and provide information on what we can and cannot accomplish. John noted the guiding documents used in developing the monitoring plan: the National Research Council (NRC) book on MPAs, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) framework, and the World Commission on Protected Areas draft guidebook (the last two are available online). John noted that the Department also used many other documents from around the world. The Department provided the Fish and Game Commission with the Draft Monitoring Plan for Review, but John explained that the plan will never really be in final form since it will always be subject to revision.

John then provided details on the monitoring plan (socioeconomic and biological), protocols, and evaluation guidelines, and listed additional possible research projects. He explained that the Department expects public review of the monitoring plan. Concerning socioeconomic monitoring John stated that a contracted social science coordinator is needed. There may be Sanctuary funding to make this occur this year, and a group at UCLA has offered support. John detailed ongoing socioeconomic monitoring activities, the types of data collected (landing receipts, logbooks, surveys), aerial monitoring, tracking of education/research, and public

outreach. He mentioned an interest in linking sanctuary, park, and Department scientific use permit databases. John said they are trying to get researchers to notify more people about their research. He also acknowledged a problem people fishing in marine reserves under a scientific collecting permit. Concerning biological monitoring John explained that there are a variety of surveys using different techniques: SCUBA, trap, aerial, ROV/submersible, and intertidal monitoring.

MPA Performance Measurement

John also addressed measuring performance of the MPAs. He stated that this was a real issue during designation, and the Fish and Game Commission process. We want to look for differential change in MPAs biologically. If there is an environmental change we don't expect it to differences in and out of MPAs. If there is an effect of other management we expect the effect outside to be the same or greater than inside the MPA. John explained that we cannot set a science-based target for an MPA, but we can look at a variety of data from existing MPAs in California and the species that occur there. For measuring social and economic performance we can look: at levels of activity, where people are fishing, what the catch amount is (whether catch exhibits normal flux, or is down), whether there is a statistically significant change in income, and public perception. A recent survey showed 75% of people support marine reserves even if it affects their ability to fish - but we don't have a local survey in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. If we have a social science coordinator they can develop those surveys. Reviewing administrative performance will necessitate looking into how well enforcement is performing.

For long-term review of the MPAs the Department wants to have annual input and potential insight from a community committee. It is not yet clear whether there will be a formal committee, according to John, but groups like the SAC can also play that role. John announced that the Department expects to have an annual report on monitoring success and data collection, but it is important to keep in mind the length of time needed to see impacts. Based on that time frame a five-year initial review is recommended, but we still should not expect major changes until ten years or more down the road.

Enforcement

John indicated that compliance with MPA regulations is relatively high. He said that there is a NOAA Fisheries / Department MOU in place for enforcement in other national marine sanctuaries, and now these partners are working on the details of funding enforcement in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. John added that the National Park Service already providing support and potentially will provide more vessel support in and around the islands.

Recreational Fisheries Survey

John announced that the California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) will replace the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFS). He explained that there won't be a big change between the two programs. Differences will include: sampling effort will be doubled, the survey will focus on boat modes (private and party boats); it will be focused on PFMC-managed species (e.g. rockfish and salmon), other types of samples will be taken but not focused on. Also the party boat sampling will use a new method to focus on primary species. Previously samplers went to randomly generated sampling locations, but now they have stratified random samples to focus on more highly used areas. Also, the Department is forming a contact database of licensed recreational fishermen to replace the random dialing phone survey. Anglers can also

volunteer to be in the database. John noted that the unfortunate side of the new database is that with better data we may see some catch estimates increase (already the case with canary rockfish), which could mean more stringent regulations.

New ROV Survey

John explained a new ROV study in which USGS maps allow surveys to focus on particular habitat, and comparable habitat in and outside of reserves in three spots. Habitat is then overlaid with depth strata and you can then see areas of high and low relief. The ROV track allows you to groundtruth the data, and to include species assemblages in real time. Because the ROV track is taped you can go back and to assess unidentified species. This method gives preliminary estimates of abundance immediately. John showed a video clip to demonstrate how the images allow the viewer to determine the size of observed organisms, as well as the position and area surveyed. He stressed that this is much more efficient than SCUBA surveys.

Update on Invasive Japanese Alga

John provided an update on the invasive Japanese alga species *Undaria pinnatifida*. He said the alga is now found in Pt. Hueneme, the Santa Barbara Harbor, Channel Islands Harbor, Catalina Island, and as far south as LA and as far north as the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. John said it is unlikely that we can eradicate it and likely that it will spread further. However, he noted that through education and removal hopefully we can limit its spread. According to John although volunteers removed more than 3000 lbs of the alga from Santa Barbara Harbor last year, it is now back at an equal or greater level. UCSB researchers are studying it to learn more about eradication. The Department is still looking for dockside volunteers to help remove it. This species is found worldwide and has taken over rocky intertidal areas in New Zealand. It has high food value, and urchins and abalone eat it. John noted that it tends to fill niches where we don't normally have large brown algae so it is changing the nature of habitat.

SAC Discussion

- Bob Warner indicated that only eight studies have been done on changes in and outside of reserves. Seven of eight found studies found change in abundance with increases outside reserves. He expressed that monitoring is tricky because there is no true control. Most studies show results in about ten years.
- Since we don't yet have socioeconomic monitoring programs in place surveying people for attitudes and perceptions Mike Murray asked Department of Fish and Game Warden Jorge Gross how people are responding when approached and informed that they are in a reserve. Jorge responded that most people they contact stay out of the reserves. He acknowledged that they do see occasional fishermen, who don't fish much or follow media, fishing off Anacapa Island. But he said that most people are aware of where the reserves are. He added that commercial compliance is extremely high due to fear of losing fishing permits. Russell Galipeau added that people who are uninformed come from LA county while the local folks are well-informed.
- Rebecca Roth asked how educational opportunities would be measured or evaluated. John Replied that we don't yet know since there is no set education goal or performance standard, but we can partially measure performance based on compliance. He indicated the new sanctuary regulations brochure as a good education tool.
- Rebecca also asked whether there is an opportunity for the MPA center to help participate in the review or evaluation. John acknowledged MPA Center participation in the March 2003

workshop and review of the monitoring plan document. He added that they've focused on more large-scale issues of cataloguing and providing information to the public, and they are about five to six years behind where we are in California.

- Craig Taylor asked to what degree the ten-year or greater time horizon is communicated to the public, and for John's perception of when the public feels they should be seeing results. John reiterated that we won't know the public's perception until we conduct socioeconomic surveys, but he did indicate that in some cases public perception is a little more optimistic than realistic. John added that the five-year review is a politically acceptable length of time to see some social and biological changes. He noted that when evaluating the impact of MPAs we have to consider: that landings are highly variable for many reasons and that the natural failing of small businesses is very high.

Update on Marine Reserves: Part 2 – Chris Mobley

Chris Mobley explained that the Sanctuary will soon provide the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and SAC with preliminary documents from a forthcoming draft environmental impact statement for technical and policy review. Chris summarized the components of the environmental documents (purpose and need, description of proposed action and alternatives, affected environment, and analysis of environmental and socioeconomic impacts). The SAC will be notified as soon as NOAA has cleared preliminary documents for public release.

Marine Acoustics – Management Recommendations for the Sanctuary from the Conservation Working Group

Linda Krop reported that the Conservation Working Group's literature review paper on marine noise sources and impacts should be ready for sharing with the Council by the May 21 SAC meeting.

SAC Discussion

- The SAC discussed next steps for this issue, and agreed to invite a number of expert speakers to attend future SAC meetings (possibly May 21). Suggested speakers included:
 - Peter Howorth, Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center
 - Drew Mayerson, Minerals Management Service
 - Roger Gentry, NOAA Office of Protected Resources (or someone else from that office)
 - Mark Delaplaine, California Coastal Commission
- Dan Brumbaugh will try to attend a NOAA Fisheries symposium on "Marine Animals and Human Noise" in Santa Cruz on June 3, and report back to the SAC.
- Rebecca Roth suggested that other California SAC Chairs be invited to attend the meeting and learn from the experts, as this is really a cross-cutting issue for the State and would enable us to learn more about what the JMPR is doing to address this issue. Linda agreed to make contact with other SACs. Chris Mobley suggested that if someone from Monterey comes they could probably speak for all three sanctuaries, and he offered to speak to Bill Douros about sending someone down in addition to he and Sean.
- Rebecca Roth offered to report back to the SAC on the Marine Mammal Commission's work on this issue.
- Jack Peveler offered to provide some contacts at Pt. Hueneme who might be interested in participating.

- Chris Mobley suggested that we list the upcoming panel of expert speakers on the SAC web pages and invite folks to through email to let people know we are working on this and they can come participate if they are interested. They could also submit comments by email or in hard copy so we can start getting some broader community input regarding these issues.
- Gary Davis suggested that the SAC might make an important contribution to all of the agencies and technical experts involved in the study of this issue by providing input on what it is that people are concerned about.
- Craig Taylor suggested that the industry must have done work on subject from an industry standpoint so perhaps SAC members could read a summary of that work before the next meeting.
- Merit McCrea asked whether fishermen using fish-finders would be a concern and wanted to know more about the acoustic ranges and frequencies of concern. Alex Stone and John Ugoretz replied that fish-finders use the same frequency as sidescan sonar.
- Chris Mobley and Mike Murray announced that National Marine Sanctuary Program Director Dan Basta has agreed to provide funding for one SAC member to attend a forum on May 18-19 in Virginia called “Shipping Noise and Marine Mammals” (www.shippingnoiseandmarinemammals.com). They mentioned that they had spoken with Linda Krop about her availability and interest to attend. Rebecca Roth and John Ugoretz made a motion to send both Linda and Greg Helms to the conference. Chris and Mike offered to look into sending them both.

Report: Annual SAC Chairs Meeting

Matt Cahn stated that over the last two years we’ve asked chairs of councils to get together and form a “super SAC” to give advice to the national program. Part of this effort involves participating in National SAC Chairs Meeting but this year the meeting conflicted with Matt’s schedule, and Vice Chair Jim Brye’s as well. Since SAC Member Michael Hanrahan was available and interested he attended. Matt offered that Michael could not be here today and wanted to pass on thanks for trusting him to represent the SAC.

Mike Murray provided a PowerPoint presentation and overview of the meeting. Mike mentioned the various SAC case studies presented at the meeting: vessels and marine mammals (HIHWNMS), coordinating with the regional fishery management council on zoning (NWHIER), improving SAC communications (TBNMS), many zoning projects at other councils, a research no-take zone (GRNMS), intertidal zoning in partnership with a national park (OCNMS), the boundary change between GFNMS and MBNMS, cruise ship and large vessel discharges (FKNMS), and cultural resources (SBNMS). For CINMS Michael Hanarahan did not have sufficient preparation time to discuss his presentation on marine reserves: the implementation of Phase I, and the role of the SAC in advising NOAA during Phase II. The meeting packet for today included his case study. Mike noted that every presenter from around the country was asked to summarize lessons learned. Michael Hanrahan discussed the importance of having a short break on marine reserves work, after marine reserves went into effect, to be sensitive to those people who were less excited about them. He also spoke about the challenge of keeping the fishing community engaged and to know that the SAC was interested in hearing from them and working with them. Last, Michael noted that it was an interesting and important turning point when Chris Mobley arrived last year in terms of developing new

protocols that encourage either working by consensus or taking distributed input from all perspectives, but not creating winners and losers.

Mike Murray noted that each meeting presentation is summarized in a handout in today's meeting packet. He added that it was great to have Gary Davis there and his presentation on 100+ years of ocean parks was received with enthusiasm. The message of his presentation concerned how sanctuaries can work closely with ocean parks in conservation. Mike also mentioned that there was a presentation by a staffer from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in Australia on a zoning project in GBRMP.

Mike also summarized policy discussion held on the final day of the meeting regarding a list of policy topics the NMSP has on its radar screen: artificial reefs, submarine cables, marine zoning, wildlife interaction, cruise ships, aquaculture, alternative energy, personal watercraft, cultural protocols, commercial concessions, and involving indigenous people on SACs. Mike indicated that Michael Hanrahan was active during these discussions in terms of implications for the Channel Islands. For example his comment on NMSP aquaculture policy guidance was what led Dan Basta to agree to sending someone to the acoustic conference. Mike mentioned that some of these policy topics are being developed into white papers that will be distributed to leadership teams, and even SACs that are interested. It will be iterative process and could lead to official policy, or policy guidelines. Chris Mobley explained that the NMSP is very cognizant of the many rules on establishing policies vs. guidelines and the tradeoffs between these, since ultimately we want to minimize the administrative burden and have something that works on the ground. Mike added that the NMSP is looking through all old MOUs, agreements and statements to look for policy, and that they are looking at the need for policies at several jurisdictional levels, starting with NOAA and then working outward to see what already exists and what is needed.

Mike explained that the final piece of the meeting was the issue of cruise ships, identified as the primary issue the NMSP wanted to present to SAC Chairs. The NMSP asked the SAC chairs what NMSP action is warranted regarding cruise ship activities in sanctuary waters. The President of the International Council of Cruise Lines was there to discuss the difficulty of holding waste streams for the duration of time needed to traverse some sanctuaries. A Bluewater Task Force (the organization that sent a proposal through the top of NOAA seeking a ban on all cruise ship discharges in sanctuaries) representative was also there. While some sites approved of developing a ban on all cruise ship discharges, other sites didn't feel comfortable with that so the chairs developed a consensus statement, "Council Chairs urge the National Program to explore regulatory and voluntary strategies which address issues of cruise ship discharge within the sanctuaries and to report back to sanctuary managers and councils."

Future SAC Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

Mike Murray mentioned that the most likely dates for this year's SAC retreat are Oct 11-15. As we get closer to that time Sanctuary staff will ask SAC members for their preferred dates for a 1,2, or 3 day retreat. Mike stated that his preference would be to go during the time that maximizes attendance.

May Meeting Topics and Draft Agenda

Matt Cahn asked whether SAC members wanted to suggest any additional agenda items for the May meeting. Mike Murray explained what topics are already lined up for the May meeting:

- The Grace Mariculture Project representative has offered to come talk about their project
- Crystal Energy is available to talk about their LNG project on Platform Grace, and would like to receive questions in advance of the May meeting so they can build responses into their presentation. (send questions to Mike and he'll get them to the presenter)
- We have 4-5 people who we will invite to serve on the acoustics panel
- We want to have some planning session about parts of the Draft Management Plan and strategies for SAC review and comments
- Sanctuary staff will provide a marine reserves status report
- We have invited MPA Center staff to present information on their work
- Graduate student from the Bren School want 15 minutes to present the findings from their Masters Student project on socioeconomic use of the Sanctuary and MR awareness

SAC Member Discussion

- John Ugoretz suggested that given the number of important topics lined up for May it may be best to delay presentations on the aquaculture and LNG projects at Platform Grace if they are not on a critical timeline.
- John Luzader suggested getting USCG and State Lands folks who are involved in the permits for those projects
- John Ugoretz added that since Platform Grace and Cabrillo Port are outside of State water the State's role is not clear. He noted that since Federal agencies have definite roles in permitting we should hear from them if we hear from groups making proposals.
- Several SAC members discussed concerns with statements made by the BHP Billiton representative regarding safety and risks associated with LNG. Gary Davis suggested that a potential way to deal with this is to have several presenters to get different perspectives.
- Russell Galipeau suggested having public comment on these projects first, then moving on to SAC business. John Ugoretz expressed concern that this approach could take up a whole meeting with public comments so alternatively it may be appropriate for the Sanctuary to host an evening meeting with a panel of speakers.

Based on this discussion Mike Murray agreed to find out about the timeline for LNG and mariculture projects, and to find speakers about these projects. Mike noted the difficulty of finding well-rounded objective speakers since there are so many different types of people involved in these projects. Russell Galipeau stated that the SAC want some expert who can frame issues and address the kinds of questions we have. Chris Mobley suggested a general presentation and then a presentation about the review timeline, and different agencies' roles.

Meeting adjourned: 3:00 pm